Jon Thomas Rowland

Clutching a bloody shit-smeared copy of DSMIV (1994 ed.; copy annotated in crayon by Professor C. Lamprini Eel, Ph.D., this is YOU Johnny Boy, etc. etc.; VERY foxed) in quivering feral paws....

Only, he hadn't been DREAMING....

HE was MAD PRIDE HITLER!

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Porko was eight years old living in a duplex on Thing Street.... Mommie Dearest was doing her face for parent-teacher night.... Tarting up for her public....

Porko was barely even steady on his feet but she smacked him in the mouth for forgetting to empty the garbage full of her used snot rags when he waddled past it that morning....

She wanted him to do the laundry but she was afraid he'd get his head caught in the wringer again and suffer even worse brain damage than before....

Porko might fumble his rosary beads or bludgeon Father Boychuck with his own censor mistaking it for a yo-yo.... All the Fragrant Flowers of Little Saint Francis would be incensed against her....

Porko's Old Man was preoccupied by his own projects.... Taking in rough-trade and phoning the cops on them while they were sleeping....

When Porko was a teenager he was walking home from his first real job in the library when a Portuguese immigrant named Jose Ferreira traumatized him for life with a big dog....

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Carlotta at the Loco Laundromat....

Breathless from her latest abortion, and an interview for a web-designer job at Dadania Ironic. She hadn't actually got the job yet, but the interview went swimmingly....

He could believe the abortion, but he suspected the interview was a lie....

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He remembered when she first came into the Thing Store....

She had two little boys with her.... Damien and Jason....

They kept punching and biting one another.... Then they noticed all the things and joined forces.... Jason would start to babble about some thing.... Damien would ask please sir, can my brother have it.... He's poor and hasn't any toys....

By the end of the visit they had loaded up their stroller with their take.... That's what they used it for....

Then off to SICK KIDS and Dr. Szatmari....

Carlotta finally bought an ugly china cabinet and an enormous long buffet from Romeo.... But when Johnny delivered her things to her crib in Citizen Hearse's Best Lodge high above the steaming alleys and reeking gutters of Thing Street, he didn't see any technical manuals....

Just a squalid little volume labeled Edwardian Architectural Drawings (very foxed!)....